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No. 2 October 1985 Oppenheimer Software

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This is the second edition of the Periodic Electronic Newsletter (PEN) for MCI Mail users assigned to Oppenheimer Software. You may respond to anything you read in the PEN by typing ANSWER at the COMMAND: line that appears after you read this. This is the same as CREATE[ing] an electronic message to Oppenheimer Software, except the MCI Mail system already knows to whom to send it. This mailbox is toll free - you may write to it as often as you wish, at no charge! (Please note that you may order a toll free mail box - contact me for more information.)

----REVISED NEW SUBSCRIBER SPECIAL-----
(This one puts CA$H in your pockets)

The special sign up offer we ran in September was very successful. We have decided to resume it effectively immediately with the following difference: When you refer a new user to Oppenheimer Software for signing up for MCI Mail, we will rebate to YOU, 25% of their first two months billings of paper and electronic mail.
The new user will still get the first two months usage credited to their $18 annual membership.

They will still get a free membership to Dow Jones News Retrieval Service - $75 a year savings.

Remember - the registration for the new user must take place through Oppenheimer Software.

Just type ANSWER when you are done reading this, or call Oppenheimer Software at 212-787-2416 or 212-724-9785.

----New MCI MAIL Special Feature----
(SCRIPTS)

Last month, MCI Mail announced a new feature called SCRIPTS. It enables you to design and generate interactive on-line data entry forms with MCI Mail.

To date, MCI Mail has been mostly used for free-form correspondence. With SCRIPTS, reports and transactions of all kinds can be handled with great ease and efficiency. The combination of SCRIPTS and MCI Mail can be used for:

*Reporting from remote field offices and sales reps.

*Developing a nationwide on-line data entry network with no capital investment or start-up time.

*Capture information such as:

| | |
|---|---|
| Purchase Orders | Online Order Entry |
| Sales Reports | Employee Activity Reports |
| Insurance Claims | Registration Information |
| Loan Applications | Survey Questionnaires |

SCRIPTS is for intelligent data gathering. It can check for data entry errors and issue help messages when it detects a mistake. Which questions are asked can be based upon a previously entered answer. It can even issue extensive HELP messages if desired.

The input format can be made to look like your existing paper forms. The output that you read can be made to look like your existing forms, or can be designed for direct entry into your computer for further processing. The forms can be protected so that only certain people have access to it.

The best feature is that no special hardware is needed... The traveling salesperson in his hotel room can use his 5 lb. portable Radio Shack 100 computer to communicate to your PC or mainframe, and of course, you can communicate back to him.

Oppenheimer Software is prepared to design scripts to meet your specific needs. For more information, just type ANSWER when you are done reading this, or call Oppenheimer Software at 212-787-2416 or 212-724-9785.

## ----Communications Software---
## (Designed to enhance MCI Mail)

As promised in the last issue, a review of some of the lesser known, but worthwhile communications packages available for your needs. All of these programs are available from Oppenheimer Software.

### MCI Mail Access

MCI Mail Access is PFS Access modified by MCI Mail to work directly with MCI Mail. It is one of the simplest programs available, but does not have some of the advanced features found on other packages described below.

FEATURES:

Automatic dialing into the MCI Mail system

Learns your log-on sequence including your user name and password for future use, etc.

Sending, saving, and printing documents are available at the touch of the key.

Information that has scrolled off of the screen can be brought back for review.

Letters can be encrypted for added security if desired.

REQUIRES:

IBM PC/XT/AT/jr or compatible with monochrome or color monitor

1 disk drive

128K Memory
MS-DOS 1.1 2.0 or 2.1

Hayes/compatible, Bizcomp, IBM PC Jr modem, Novation, POPCOM, US Robotics, Transend, Ventel modem

AROUND
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AROUND is a communications package with an EMAIL bias. It comes complete with a number of macros, called ROUTES, which connect the PC to various services, one of which is MCI Mail.

The principal benefit of AROUND is flexibility. It includes a scripting language which can be used to program the package to perform a number of special tasks related to MCI Mail. It can, for example, connect to MCI Mail, check the mail, SCAN for certain subjects, forward these to another account and download the rest to a file and log-off. ROUTES of this sort are fairly easy to set-up and can be easily modifies and adapted to the unique application.

FEATURES:

Single stroke access to MCI Mail (and other services)

Directory for storage of phone numbers, user ID's and address information. Works like an address book.

Notepad which serves as a simple text editor. It can be used while on-line providing user with an improved editor for use while connected to MCI.

Timers which can be scheduled to poll MCI Mail at certain intervals.

REQUIRES:

IBM PC or compatible with monochrome or color monitor

1 disk drive

192K Memory
MS-DOS 2.0 or 2.1

Hayes compatible modem

MAILCOM
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MAILCOM works as on off-line MCI Mail account. It is made up of a communications program, a text editor, an address book and folders, like INBOX and OUTBOX, for message management.

Digisoft Computers, publishers of MAILCOM, tailored the package to fit the needs of an individual. It is designed to provide all the key MCI Mail functions off-line so that messages may be composed, read and replied to without being connected. Address book and editor make it easy to compose messages off-line. The ability to create folders provides message management capabilities beyond the on-line service, for example, if I wish to keep all messages I receive from you in a separate file, all I need do is set up a new folder.

REQUIRES:

IBM PC or compatible with monochrome or color monitor

2 disk drives

192K Memory

MS-DOS 1.1, 2.0, 2.1 or 3.0

Modem

## P/C PRIVACY

P/C PRIVACY provides a valuable stand-alone file conversion function. Binary or non-ASCII files cannot ordinarily be sent through MCI Mail. In order to send non-ASCII files, like Lotus 1-2-3 spreadsheets or Multimate documents, through the mail system they must first be encoded into a format compatible with our system, then sent and finally decoded back into the original format at the receiving end. P/C PRIVACY provides this encoding/decoding function. It also provides an encrypting function which works like MCI Mail Access. (hence the name Privacy)

It is important to note that this product is designed to be used with software a customer may already own and is not intended to provide the complete communications solution. Text editing and communications software are required in addition to P/C PRIVACY in order to send a message. For this reason, it is the ideal product to recommend when a customer already has wordprocessing and communications software and does not want to switch to one of the other packages.

MC Tel, makers of P/C PRIVACY, have another product, called ELECTRONIC ENVELOPE, which provides the binary file transfer utility without the encryption feature. This product works like its predecessor.

REQUIRES:

IBM or Apple MacIntosh computer

## TRANSEND

TRANSEND provides very similar functionality to MAILCOM. It too provides an off-line interface to the mail system. Included are an address book, text editor, folders and communications software. The appearance of the screens are pleasing and the command structure streamlined. In contrast to Mailcom, it provides the same functionality minus the binary file transfer capability.

TRANSEND is important addition to our recommended list because it provides us with an exact equivalent to GEISCO's PC Mailbox. In certain situations it is to our advantage to have software which works just like software a customer has or is considering.

REQUIRES:

- IBM PC or compatible with monochrome or color monitor
- 2 disk drives
- 256K Memory
- MS-DOS 1.1, 2.0, 2.1 or 3.0
- Modem

## PRODUCT COMPARISON

| Product | Vendor | Key Features | User Benefits |
|---|---|---|---|
| MCI Mail Access ($50*) | MCI Mail | Standard Communication Software<br>Interfaces with PFS Series if desired | Easy to use<br>"" "" |
| Mail-Com ($190*) | Digisoft Communications | Batch Interface<br>Binary File Transfer<br>Text Editor<br>Mail Management<br>Unattended Operation | One software for all MCI Mail needs |
| Around ($190*) | Teal Communications | Binary File Transfer<br>Screen Editor<br>Scripting Language<br>Concurrency w/in Around | Easily tailored for specific needs |
| P/C Privacy ($150*) | MC Tel | Binary File Transfer<br>Works with any communications software | Perfect complement to existing software |
| PC Complete ($229*) | Transend | Batch Interface<br>Text Editor<br>Mail Management<br>Unattended Operation | Same as Mail-Com but without binary file xfer |

* Plus tax and shipping.

Next issue will cover international Telex on MCI Mail, international use of MCI Mail, and use of the on-line MCI Mail directory to locate new clients.

Till then.....
Gary